

Method of Producing Customer-Designed Jewelry Utilizing Services of Foundry.  
Inventor: Jay Whaley

**CLAIMS**

What is claimed, is

1. A method of allowing a jewelry maker without mold-making or foundry facilities to make a ring or other item of precious or semi-precious metal, comprising the following steps:

A retail shop, internet retail site, college jewelry-making class, or other company, individual or location (the "Retailer") which provides to a jewelry maker (the "Customer") the tools, supplies, and instruction, either in the form of classroom instruction or written instructional manuals, sufficient to allow the jewelry maker to produce a wax carving, or replica of a desired piece of jewelry; and

The means by which the Customer can return the wax replica to the Retailer, such means including but not limited to protective boxes addressed to the Retailer, postage paid or unpaid; and

The means by which the Retailer can send the wax replica to a commercial jewelry manufacturing facility or foundry (the "Foundry"), at which a mold can be made of the wax replica, said mold being made of plaster of Paris or similar material which is soft and malleable when wet, such that it can be pushed to

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completely encase the wax replica, but which dries to a hardened solid form as its liquid component evaporates; and

The means by which the Foundry can heat the wax replica within the mold above the melting point of the wax, such that the wax melts away, leaving a cavity within the mold in the shape of the desired piece of jewelry; and

The means by which the Foundry can heat precious or semi-precious metals beyond their melting point, such that molten metal can be poured into the mold, and, when cooled, create a metal pieces of jewelry in the exact shape and dimensions as that initially carved as a wax replica by the Customer; and

The means by which the Foundry can correct any burrs or other imperfections in the jewelry piece through buffing or other means of smoothing; and

The means by with the Foundry can affix gemstones and/or perform additional work that can be done to further enhance the jewelry; and

The means by which the Foundry can transport the metal jewelry piece back to the Retailer, such as but not limited to protective boxes addressed to the Retailer, both pre-paid and non pre-paid postage; and

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The means by which a Retailer can also affix gemstones and/or perform additional work that can be done to further enhance the jewelry before returning it to the Customer; and

The means by which the Retailer can return the finished piece of metal jewelry to the Customer, including but not limited to protective boxes addressed to the Customer.